

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 02800 091127Z

15

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 USIA-15 /045 W

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R 090934Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8022

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2800

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, DA

SUBJECT: FILM OF SEX LIFE OF CHRIST MAY NOT BE PRODUCED.

1. NIELS MATTHIASSEN, DANISH MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOLD ME NOVEMBER 8 THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE CONTROVERSIAL MOVING PICTURE DEPICTING THE SEX LIFE OF CHRIST WILL BE PRODUCED. HE BASED THIS VIEW ON THE FACT THAT THE COMPANY WHICH IS MAKING THE MOVIE HAS NOT SO FAR BEEN ABLE TO FIND SUITABLE LOCALE FOR PRODUCING IT. FRANCE RECENTLY REFUSED TO ALLOW IT TO BE SHOT THERE AND APPROACHES TO OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE PROVED UNPRODUCTIVE.

2. THE MINISTER TOLD ME THAT CONTRARY TO PUBLISHED REPORTS THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE HAS NOT APPROVED THE FILM NOR IN FACT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT. THE MINISTRY GIVES ABOUT TWELVE MILLION KRONER PER YEAR TO THE DANISH FILM INSTITUTE TO PROMOTE FILM PRODUCTION BUT HAS NO SAY AS TO WHAT IS PRODUCED OR NOT PRODUCED. HE UNDERSTANDS FROM THE INSTITUTE THAT UNLESS THE PRODUCERS OF THE CHRIST FILM HAVE ARRANGED FOR ITS PRODUCTION BY NOVEMBER 25 THE INSTITUTE WILL NO LONGER PROVIDE FUNDS.

3. ASKED IF I COULD HAVE A COPY OF THE SCRIPT, THE MINISTER SAID HE WOULD TRY TO GET ME ONE.

4. MY IMPRESSION WAS THAT THE MINISTER REGRETTED THE INCIDENT AND ESPECIALLY HIS OWN REMARKS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WHICH HE EVIDENTLY MADE IN REPLY TO CRITICISM BY THE VATICAN ON THE
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MAKING OF A FILM OF THIS DUBIOUS NATURE ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENSORSHIP, MOTION PICTURES, RELIGIOUS GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973COPENH02800
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731145/aaaabgqo.tel
Line Count: 62
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2001 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FILM OF SEX LIFE OF CHRIST MAY NOT BE PRODUCED.
TAGS: SCUL, DA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005